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This is an extremely democratic view born of the time of the French Revolution. Mirabeau and a large body of publicists not only in France, but also in America, in the latter half of the eighteenth century convinced themselves that all would be right if there were one large legislative assembly in which all classes were represented. No notion in government is farther from the truth. While it is desirable that the different classes should be properly voiced in the government it is a great deal more to the purpose that the representatives should embody wisdom, character and virtue in their own persons. They may represent whatever you choose, but if they do not have character within themselves, they will be of little credit to the constituency that sends them out or to the state in the larger sense. None of the world's great statesmen became great because he represented some particular faction in the electorate. Dr. Klöti is quite right, therefore, in his conclusion that it is self-evident (*selbstverständlich*) that proportional representation can create "no political Eldorado."

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Histoire de France, depuis les origines jusqu'à la Révolution. Par ERNEST LAVISSE, publiée avec la collaboration de MM. Bayet, Bloch, Carré, Coville, Kleinclausz, Langlois, Lemonnier, Luchaire, Mariéjol, Petit-Dutaillis, Rebelliau, Sagnac, Vidal de la Blache. Paris: Hachette et Cie, 1901.

There has been no satisfactory history of France. It is not necessary to point out in detail the faults of the existing works; no one of them represents in any way the results of the careful study of the last decades. There was an imperative necessity for the history to be rewritten in the light of our present knowledge.

This task has been undertaken by Lavissee with the assistance of the able scholars named above. It will be published in sixty-four fasciculi, and usually two of these will be issued each month, except during the summer vacations. The complete work will consist of eight volumes of about 800 pages each or, rather, sixteen half-volumes of 400 pages each. The price is only six francs a half volume. Thus far one-half of Volume I, the second half of Volume II, and the whole of Volume III have been published. These four half volumes average 430 pages each. The whole work will be completed probably in 1903.

M. Bloch in Volume I treats of "The Origins, Independent Gaul, and Roman Gaul." Nearly three-fourths of the space is given, fittingly, to the last subject. In reading this volume we are impressed by the skill with which the author has succeeded in condensing an enormous mass of material into what is relatively so small a space.

For instance, in eight pages he discusses very clearly and in detail the history, theory and system of direct and indirect taxation.

M. Luchaire has written the second half of Volume II and the first half of Volume III, which cover the periods from 987 to 1137 and 1137 to 1226, respectively. It would be a work of supererogation to point out his pre-eminent fitness for this task. By his previous study and writings he has made this field peculiarly his own. Volume II, part 2, is divided into two books: "Feudalism and the Church (eleventh century)" and "The French Renaissance (end of the eleventh and beginning of the twelfth century)." In reading this volume the present reviewer has noted section after section as especially worthy of remark. But on running over his notes he has found that it would require a long review even to mention the subjects thus noted. The same statement is true of the two succeeding volumes.

Volume III, part 1, is divided into three books: "Louis VII.," "Philip Augustus and Louis VIII.," and "French Society (end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth century)." The evolution of the Capetian monarchy is naturally the main subject and Philip Augustus is the central figure; to him 200 pages are given. The battle of Bouvines and its results occupy thirty-seven pages.

In Volume III, part 2, M. Langlois writes of the period from 1226 to 1328. The first two books discuss the political events from 1226 to 1285, and 1286 to 1328 respectively; the third book, about one-quarter of the volume, institutions and civilization. M. Luchaire has withstood temptation, and the heroic and saintly Louis IX. receives less space than Philip the Fair—as it is proper that he should. A quotation will illustrate the character of the last section of this volume, which is the most interesting. *Deux faits dominant l'histoire de l'activité intellectuelle au XIII^e siècle: la décadence de l'idéalisme et de la littérature artificielle, et le développement de l'esprit scientifique.*

Il y avait eu, au XII^e siècle, dans les écoles, une renaissance des lettres qui n'est pas sans analogie avec le mouvement plus célèbre, plus complet et plus fécond, de la Renaissance proprement dite . . .

Le XII^e siècle finissant avait paru désespérer de la raison: jamais les mystiques, contempteurs de la science et de la curiosité scientifique, n'ont été plus nombreux qu'au temps où l'école théologique du monastère de Saint-Victor de Paris fut dans sa gloire. Le XIII^e siècle, au contraire, le plus "intellectualiste" du moyen âge, a eu passionnément confiance dans la raison; il a essayé de savoir; il a voulu tout démontrer (p. 387).

All of the volumes are characterized by an extreme lucidity of statement, by a logical analysis which makes them easy to read and study. Cross-references which bind the various parts together are frequent

and are indicative of the careful editorial work. For each section a select bibliography of sources and secondary works is given. Thus this history becomes an invaluable guide to further study. There is a wealth of illustrative material from contemporary sources which emphasizes the general statements of facts. France is never treated as an isolated land, but its associations with the surrounding countries are kept constantly in mind. In particular much attention is given to institutions, literature, art, the life and thoughts of the people. The authors have succeeded in making the work *un tableau complet, bien que forcément abrégé, de la civilisation française*.

The most important defect, in our opinion, is that some statements, which seem open to doubt, are made absolutely and without reference to authorities. For example, M. Luchaire (Vol. III, part 1, p. 338) says: *À coup sûr, la corporation générale avait déjà son chef ou son directeur (capitale) en 1200, année où elle reçut du roi de France son premier privilège connu, car, dans cette charte, Philippe-Auguste comprend évidemment sous le nom de scolaires, tout le personnel de la grande école parisienne, maîtres et étudiants*. Rashdall and others deny that *capitale* in the privilege of Philip Augustus means the chief of the students, and hold that it probably refers to the chattels of the students. In this, and in similar cases, the statement stands in need of defence, or a foot-note should be given indicating that other authorities do not hold the same view.

Although the collaborators have been, as a whole, so well chosen, we miss the names of some French scholars who seem especially fitted to participate in this work. The volumes have greater unity because each is written by a single author, but occasionally we regret that some special topic has not been treated by the student who is best fitted to discuss that particular theme. Some subjects which seem pertinent have not been treated as yet, but possibly, as in the case of the history of Christianity in Roman Gaul, these will find a place in a later volume. As a whole the history thus far is worthy of the highest praise. It represents the most accurate scholarship of the present day and is an absolute necessity to every student of French history.

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Life of the Emperor Frederick. Edited from the German of Margaretha von Poschinger, with an Introduction. By SIDNEY WHITMAN. Pp. xiv, 460. Price, \$2.50. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1901.

In 1900 Margaretha von Poschinger published the last of three volumes devoted to the life of Frederick III., German emperor, and